personal penalities are being levied. Here is a deliberate attempt of reversal and he is saying that it is only 20 per cent interest.

Distribution of Mosquito Nets in Malaria Prone Areas

*43. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme to distribute mosquito nets in malaria and other mosquito induced sickness areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme;

(c) the funds spent on this scheme during the 8th Plan; and

(d) the States which have benefited from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Under the National Malaria Eradication Programme, one lakh five thousand medicated mosquito nets were procured on a pilot basis during 1995-96 for distribution to identified malaria prone areas. The pilot project was undertaken to determine the efficacy and replicability of this strategy based on promotion of personal protection.

(c) Rs. 1.48 crores have been spent for procurement of the Mosquito Nets and the Synthetic Pyrethroid for inpregnation during 1995-96.

(d) The Medicated Mosquito Nets were supplied to the 7 North Eastern States namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and parts of Maharashtra on a pilot basis.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the Government has declared that malaria was eradicated a few years ago, throughout the country. It is a fact that malaria has surfaced with a vengeance. But the poor people are suffering from malaria in rural areas and in slums in urban areas. The Indian Council of Medical Research recently came out with the view that the effort to control malaria and mosquito related diseases has been a failure. Recently more than 600 people died due to dengu fever in Delhi and other parts of the country. I would like to know whether this scheme of supplying mosquito nets to malaria affected areas would be implemented in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, basically, Andhra Pradesh has not been covered because we did a very small pilot study. The intial reports that have come to us on the mosquito nets have been very, very encouraging. People have been using these nets and response to mosquito nets has been very good. We are ordering another 50,000 mosquito nets. The order would be placed in one or two weeks. This will also be done on a trial basis because there are certain problems. We have not been able to get complete reports because of the inaccessibility to these areas. We have taken the help of a private organisation which would do a study on how much effective these nets are. The world Bank has also been insisting on us to use these nets. So, we will work out the total programme after we get this report. As far as coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh are concerned.

We can include them in the pilot project that we are doing with these 50,000 nets. We can certainly take care of that. The hon. Member mentioned about dengue fever in Delhi. I would like to tell the hon. member through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that we have learnt our lesson. A surveillance network should have been there. But it was not there. In the meetings of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare on 8th, 9th and 10th of January, we took a decision that we will have a surveillance calendar which will not only cover malaria, but will also cover kala-azar, Japanese encephalitis, as well as dengue. Every month a programme will be chalked out as to what we have to do in the month, what the States have to do and how it will be coordinated so that we become aware of it. We have adopted this surveillance system. We have started monitoring it. I can assure the House that we will be prepared for any emergency because of this surveillance network.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: The 'a' part of my supplementary is: whether it is a fact that mosquitoes are becoming immun to insecticides like DDT and Malathion. What steps is the Government going to take to

eradicate malaria? Common people suffer the most because of this.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: One of our areas of concern is that mosquitoes are becoming resistant to insecticides and sprays. The last thing that we can resort to is the use of Malathion. We do not want to do this in a big way because mosquitos may develop resistance to Malathion as well. Then there will be no way out. As the hon. Member mentioned, we are encouraging the use of mosquito nets. Very recently I had a meeting with Prof. Menon and Prof. Ramalingaswamy who are doing a lot of good work on malaria. I am constituting a high-powered committee which one of them would be heading. This Committee will advise us on the steps to be taken to avoid this disease.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Local bodies are not able to purchase insecticides due to lack of funds. Do you have any scheme for supplying insecticides?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: We do have a scheme to supply insecticides. I do not know which particular area the hon. Member is interested in. Wherever there is a requirement, we do meet the requirement to the best of our ability.

PRFO. RAM KAPSE: Malaria has come back with a vengeance in cities and also villages. You have taken up a pilot scheme and the report is ready. In cities, we find that there are different types of malaria. So far as medicated nets are concerned, I would like to know whether they are useful to fight all types of malaria. Secondly, some people can afford to purchase these nets. I would like to know the cost of each net.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Basically, if we can keep the mosquitoes away, we can keep malaria away. The whole purpose of giving these nets is to keep mosquitoes away. The response has been very very encouraging. From the reports that we received, we find that in areas where we supplied these nets, the number of cases of fever have come down drastically. We are monitoring the situation very closely. As far as the cost of nets is concerned, we have a number of offer. The lowest quoted price is Rs. 90 per net. The highest is Rs. 140 per net. We are looking into some other technical aspects. A Committee has been formed. The problem is that anything that is given free of cost usually loses it value. Maybe, we could give it at a nominal price so that it is used more effectively. We are looking into it.

श्री अखिलेश दास: Hon. Sir, the Minister has said that he has provided medicated mosquito nets in the seven North-Eastern States.

डेंग्यू के जो वायरस हैं उनके लिए यह कहा जाता है कि जाड़ों के समय में उतना इफेक्टिव नहीं रहता है But now summer is coming. Dengue will be very much effective.

स्पेशली उत्तर प्रदेश में पिछले समय और दिल्ली के अंदर भी बहुत बड़ी संख्या में डेंग्यू से लोग अफेक्टेड रहे हैं। उसके बारे में क्या इफेक्टिव मेजर्स ले रहे हैं और क्या स्पेशल प्लान्स हैं क्योंकि अभी मार्च से ही इसकी शुरूआत होती है। पिछली बार यह जवाब दिया गया था कि फरवरी तक डेंग्यू का उतना खतरा नहीं है। लेकिन अब मार्च, अप्रैल और मई ये बहुत ही डेंजरर्स महीने डेंग्यू के परपज के लिए होंगे It is a very dangerous disease.

तो उसके बारे में क्या फर्दर एक्शन मंत्रालय ले रहा है यह मैं जानना चाहूंगा।

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, I sincerely wish I could medicate the mosquitoes; then my whole problem would be over. But as the Member has raised the issue about Dengue, as I told you, we have made a calendar of events where Dengue is part of it and we will be carrying out a lot of surveillance.

हम इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि हम लोगों में पहले से अपने साथ अवेयरनेस डेवलप कर लें कि क्या -क्या कदम उनको उठाने चाहिए जिससे कि हम इन मच्छरों की पैदावार और इसके साथ-साथ इसको खत्म कर सकें तो इससे हमको बहुत ज्यादा फायदा हो जाता है। क्योंकि बदकिस्मती यह है कि डेंग्यू जो है इस मच्छर का उन घरों में लारवा पैदा होता है जहां साफ पानी रहता है चाहे वह कूलर का पानी हो चाहे फ्लावर पाट्स का पानी हो। हमने इस दफा आई.ई.सी. पर भी काफी जोर दिया है - जो हमारा इन्फारमेशन, एजूकेशन और कम्युनिकेशन का प्रोग्राम है जिससे कि हम लोगों को अवेयर कर सकें कि क्या-क्या उनको कदम उठाने चाहिए। साथ ही साथ गवर्नमेंट की मशीनरी भी और दिल्ली सरकार की मशीनरी भी गीयर अप हो जाए कि हम इन सारे सर्वीलेंस के मेथड्स को कर सकें। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि इस साल हम उसको काफी हद तक रिड्यूस कर पाएंगे।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि आपने मच्छरदानी वितरण के लिए राजस्थान राज्य को तो रखा नहीं है जबकि राजस्थान राज्य में पिछले दो साल से हजारों आदमियों की मृत्यु इस मलेरिया की बीमारी से हुई है और मलेरिया की बीमारी को दूर करने कि लिए आपने डी.डी.टी. पाउडर और कीटनाशक औषधियां वितरित जरूर की हैं लेकिन जहां 50 टन की आवश्यकता थी वहां 5 टन दिया है तो कैसे संभव हो सकेगा कि इन कीटनाशकों से जो मलेरिया कि मच्छर हैं वे मर पाएंगे। मैं आपसे जानना चाहूंगा कि इस महामारी से राजस्थान की जनता को बचाने के लिए आप राजस्थान में क्या विशेष योजनाएं लागू कर रहे हैं? मलेरिया को समाप्त करने के लिए राजस्थान को कितना धन उपलब्ध कराएंगे, कितने कीटनाशक उपलब्ध कराएंगे? यह बताने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, at the moment I cannot say: what amount of funds I can give them.

But I can tell you the number.

जो हम ये 50 हजार मच्छरदानियां खरीदने जा रहे हैं उसमें राजस्थान कवर्ड है। राजस्थान को भी हम ले रहे हैं अपना पायलट प्रोजेक्ट जो है क्योंकि राजस्थान में वह काफी रहा है। दूसरी चीज यह है कि हमारे पास जो भी पैसा होता है उस पैसे को हमें पूरे भारतवर्ष में खर्च करना पड़ता है। इसलिए जहां-जहां हम जितनी उनकी जरूरत समझकर दे सकते हैं वह हम देने की कोशिश करते हैं। कहीं पर जब ज्यादा भार पड़ जाता है, वहां हम ज्यादा देने की कोशिश करते हैं। तो यह कहना मेरे लिए बहुत मुश्किल हो जाएगा कि मैं अपने फंड का कितना हिस्सा राजस्थान को दे सकता हूं। मगर जैसे-जैसे जरूरत पड़ेगी और जो मेरा अपना बजट मेरे पास अवेलेबुल होगा उसका मैं इस्तेमाल करता रहूंगा।

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, it seems that the chemical solutions for solving the problem of mosquitoes have not been very effective. In fact, the mosquitoes being biological organisms have developed genetic resistance to those chemical solutions. One should perhaps think of biological solutions. There is a lot of research going on. One solution which is being proposed—it sounds very odd—is to let the mosquitoes adopt family planning practice, i.e., to have biological arrangements for sterilising the male mosquitoes. I think it is being done in a number of cases. For example, it is found to be very effective in reducing the rat population through biological methods without being environmentally offensive and without the use of insecticides and such other things. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some research is being done to work out biological solutions to these problems without completely relying on chemicals which can be harmful for others. They may be effective for malaria and other things. For malaria, it may be very effective. I would like to know what actually is being done in this direction.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, I have already mentioned to you earlier that we have asked Prof. Menon and Prof. Ramalingaswamy who have done a lot of work on malaria to offer solutions to these problems. They were talking about this biological thing which Dr. Biplab Dasgupta had mentioned. They will be meeting sometime next week. I am forming this Committee because I am myself concerned about the resistance being developed. But till such time as the whole proposal comes to me, I will not be able to react to it because I have asked them not only to tell me the present problems but also to offer solutions as to how we can overcome these problems in a time-bound manner.

Recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission regarding Income-Tax exemption on allowances

*44. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that personnel of IFS are exempted from paying income tax on the allowances admissible to them while in service; and

(b) if so, whether Government are favourably inclined to extend this facility to all Central Government Employees as recommended by Fifth Central Pay Commission? If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. By virtue of the provisions of clause (7) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, any allowances or